(d) Due to acute shortage of manpower, all the trains are not provided with escorts. However, most of the important trains are provided with RPF / GRP escorts during night.

Fixation of pay of running staff

1386. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the basic pay of running staff is more than the ordinary staff in the Ministry of Railways after the implementation of recommendation of Sixth Central Pay Commission (CPC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the formula adopted for fixation of pay of running staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The revised pay in the pay band of running staff has been computed in the following manner : The existing basic pay as on 1.1.2006 has been multiplied by a factor of 1.86 and the sum so arrived is added by an amount representing DA on the pay element @ 86% of 30% of existing basic pay. The resultant figure has been rounded off to next multiple of 10. After determining the pay in the pay band in above manner, grade pay corresponding to the existing scale is payable. In case of other staff the pay in the pay band has been fixed simply by multiplying basic pay as on 01.01.2006 by a factor of 1.86. The dearness allowance to running staff is payable on basic pay and pay element of running allowance, while the same is payable to other employees on the basic pay alone. Due to this fact the revised basic pay of running staff at a particular stage in any specific existing (pre-revised) pay scale is generally higher than an ordinary staff at corresponding pre-revised stage & scale, after implementation of Sixth Central Pay Commission pay structure.

Proposals from Maharashtra for railway projects

1387. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals and other particulars for construction of new lines, doubling/widening of existing railway lines received from Maharashtra Government which are pending for consideration and approval in last three years, year-wise;

(b) when these proposals were received from Maharashtra Government; and

(c) the present status and by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Projects affected by global meltdown

1388. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRJ VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the global meltdown is threatening to take a toll on the Indian Railways and the early warning signals are here;

(b) whether in the six months period ending September 30, freight traffic of the Indian Railways amounted to 401.89 million tonnes up from 370.25 million tonnes during the same period last year recording a growth of 8 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details of the projects that have been affected and the steps being considered in this regard to meet the global crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Transportation is a derived demand based on the growth in the economy. In the month of Oct.'08 and Nov.'08, the actual loading of originating freight on Indian Railways was less than the expected growth.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ongoing railway projects related to new line, gauge conversion and doubling are not affected because of economic slowdown.

Rail link from India to Nepal

1389. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has pointed out that report on 46 kilometre long route from New Jalpaiguri in India to Kakrabitta in Nepal has been submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has considered the report;

(c) if so, by when final decision in regard to implement the project is likely to be taken; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway projects from Madhya Pradesh

1390. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects received from the State of Andhra Pradesh during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) the details of the works undertaken for improvement and expansion of railway network in Andhra Pradesh during the said period; and

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.